



## UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE United States Patent and Trademark Office Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS Washington, D.C. 20231 www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/469,277	12/22/1999	STEVEN C. DAKE	INTL-0278-US	4789
7	7590 02/19/2003			
TIMOTHY N TROP			EXAMINER	
TROP PRUNER HU & MILES PC 8554 KATY FREEWAY STE 100 HOUSTON, TX 77024			CRAIG, DWIN M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2123	
			DATE MAILED: 02/19/2003	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Advisory Action Application No. O9/469,277 DAKE ET AL. Examiner Dwin M Craig 2123 --The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address - REPLY FILED 1-30-2003 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

THE REPLY FILED 1-30-2003 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may <u>only</u> be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)] The period for reply expires \_\_\_ \_months from the mailing date of the final rejection. The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection. ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b). 1. A Notice of Appeal was filed on \_\_\_\_. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. 2. The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because: (a) \times they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below); (b) they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below); (c) X they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or (d) they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims. NOTE: The New Claims if entered would be different in scope requireing a new search. 3. Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): 4. Newly proposed or amended claim(s) \_\_\_\_ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s). 5. The a) affidavit, b) exhibit, or c) request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: \_ 6. The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection. 7. $\boxtimes$  For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a)  $\boxtimes$  will not be entered or b)  $\square$  will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended. The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows: Claim(s) allowed: None. Claim(s) objected to: None. Claim(s) rejected: 1-21 and 28-32. Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: None. 8. ☑ The proposed drawing correction filed on 23 October 2002 is a) ☑ approved or b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner. 9. Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s)( PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 10. Other: \_\_

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office PTO-303 (Rev. 04-01)